

15. (Amended) A wash bucket screen for use in a water bucket having a bottom and walls or a single cylindrical or frustum wall, comprising:

a planar platform slanting from a high perimeter portion to a lower perimeter lower portion,

a skirt depending vertically from a platform perimeter at a skirt proximal end, adapted to support the platform above a skirt distal end, the platform having a plurality of holes therethrough arrayed throughout the platform generally allowing water to pass through wherein the skirt flexes resiliently to accommodate a narrowing bucket wall providing an effective splash shield between the screen and the bucket wall, the skirt having vertical slits opening to the skirt distal ends allowing skirt portions between slits to bend resiliently as a flange extending horizontally from the skirt rides on the bucket wall, wherein the platform and skirt include channels on the platform perimeter at the lower perimeter portions and extending along the skirt channeling debris from the platform to the bucket bottom outside the skirt.

16. The wash bucket screen of claim 15 wherein the platform further comprises a plurality of ridges disposed radially on the platform from a center to a platform perimeter.

17. The wash bucket screen of claim 19 further comprising a slanted platform supported on a depending skirt sized to flexibly engage the water bucket wall above the bucket bottom with channels on the platform skirt opening at the platform perimeter at a lower perimeter portion and channeling debris from the slanted planar platform to the bucket bottom.

18. Delete.

19. (New Claim) A wash bucket screen for use in a water bucket having a bottom and walls or a single cylindrical or frustum wall, comprising a planar platform slanted from horizontal in a single plane having a plurality of holes therethrough and supported above a bucket bottom on a vertical skirt depending from a platform perimeter and sized to flexibly engage a water bucket wall.

In the Drawings

Drawings have been amended, as shown attached. A copy marked in red is also provided indicated the changes.

REMARKS

The specification and claims have been amended to overcome the examiner's objections and §112 rejections.

The Examiner has cited Biesinger (US 6,161,701) as anticipating claim 1. The language of claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the skirt must depend from the platform and the

platform is that element that has a plurality of holes arrayed throughout it. The analogous Biesinger element with an array of holes is his central opening (20). Biesinger's concave surface (18) is but a funnel directing water to the central opening (20) and does not have holes. It therefore does not equate to applicant's platform. But the Biesinger central opening (20) with an array of holes is not supported by a skirt depending from it vertically to support it above a bucket bottom; rather the Biesinger skirt depends from an annulus on the top of his concave surface. The two structures are not the same and the claim has been amended to clarify their differences. Wilfong (US 6,379,630 B1) has a plurality of holes but not in a surface supported by a skirt depending therefrom and supporting such surface above a bucket bottom. Neither Biesinger nor Wilfong have a platform. If they were combined, they would still not have such a platform. Combination of Biesinger with Wilfong is therefore inappropriate with regard to claim 1.

Claim 2 has been deleted.

Claim 3 has been amended to eliminate the term "side" in favor of the term "skirt."

Claim 4 has been amended to reflect a flange extending from the screen skirt. The Examiner cites to Biesinger suggesting that Biesinger discloses a flange. Applicant traverses the Examiner's analysis. If the examiner considers the Biesinger cylindrical member (12) as equivalent to applicant's skirt/side, then it cannot also be the required flange; a member cannot extend from itself. Applicant employs the term "skirt" or previously "side" as a vertical element supporting another member, not the edge of that other element. Applicant's flange has been further defined as extending horizontally from the skirt to further clarify that it is not equivalent to Biesinger's cylindrical member (12).

Claim 5 has been deleted.

Claim 6 has been amended to depend on claim 4, with the flange riding on the bucket wall.

Claim 7 has been amended to clarify that the required slits are in a vertical skirt member depending from a platform. The examiner has cited Wilfong as having slits and has concluded that the Applicant slits are an obvious extension of the Wilfong slits. Applicant traverses the Examiner's conclusions. The Wilfong slits are in a member structurally different from applicant's skirt. Though the Wilfong slits may assist in accommodating a variation in a container as does applicant's slits in its skirt, the structure is different. It is inappropriate to extract a feature of a different structure with a different function and purpose and constructively insert it into a new claim to overcome the new claim. Applicant's vertical slit is in a vertical member supporting a top member. Wilfong's slit is in that top member and there is no analogous supporting member in Wilfong at the top member perimeter. Wilfong not only does not employ slits in a vertical perimeter structure, it does not employ such a perimeter structure. A more analogous comparison would be to find slits in Wilfong's support legs (48) but that would be ineffective in the Wilfong structure, which only emphasizes the differences in the nonanalogous structures. It is not at all obvious to ignore the function and structure of Applicant's skirt and imagine the Wilfong structure vertical to obtain a vertical slit therein. Such would defeat the Wilfong structure. Such a combination is not allowed.

Claim 8 has been amended to clarify that the platform is planar in a plane slanting from horizontal in directing debris over the platform perimeter. The Examiner cites Biesinger as disclosing a slanted platform. The cited Biesinger structure is conical; Applicant's platform is planar. And again, the conical Biesinger structure has no holes; Applicant's platform requires a plurality of holes.

Claim 9 has been deleted.

Claim 10 has been amended to clarify that the required channels are in the skirt opening to the platform at its perimeter. The examiner has construed a corner in the Biesinger central opening as a channel. It is suggested that the amended claim differentiates the structures.

Claims 11 and 12 have been deleted and claims 13 has not been amended.

Claim 14 has been amended to depend on claim 13.

Claim 15 has been amended as in the prior claims.

Claim 16 has not been amended.

Claim 17 has been amended to depend on new claim 19.

Claim 18 has been deleted.

New claim 19 recites a planar platform and supported by a skirt at its perimeter as in the prior claims and having holes therethrough arrayed throughout.

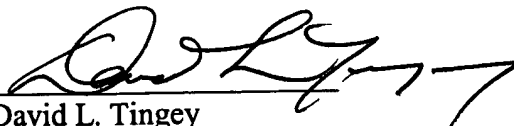
Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 10, 13-17, and 19

Independent claims as amended are believed to be in allowable form. Dependent claims as amended should be allowed as dependent on allowable independent claims. If the examiner finds that a further amendment in addition to the above amendments would put a claim in allowable form, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

The undersigned believes there is no fee due. If for any reason this submittal is not deemed timely, Applicant request an extension of time sufficient to make the submittal timely and authorizes the examiner to charge this or any other necessary fee is associated with this submittal to the undersign's deposit account, 500416.

For Applicant, Cresswell

Respectfully,


David L. Tingey
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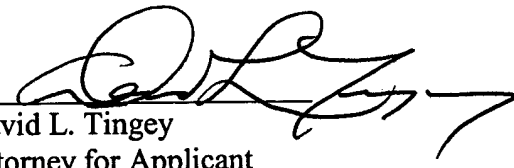
Dated: January 6, 2003

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this day of January 6, 2003 with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the specification:

In the second, third, and fourth paragraphs of the Detailed Description Of the Preferred Embodiment, amend as follows:

The screen comprises a platform 12 supported on a skirt 14 depending vertically at a skirt proximal end 33 from the platform ~~10~~ 12 at a platform perimeter 30. The platform 12 typically slants from a platform upper portion 15 to a platform lower portion 16. For example, the platform 12 in a preferred embodiment slants from the platform upper portion ~~14~~ 15 at a first perimeter portion 18 to a platform lower portion 16 on a perimeter lower portion 22. The platform ~~10-12~~ includes a plurality of holes 24 therethrough arrayed throughout the platform generally that provides for water to pass through to the bucket bottom 101. The platform ~~10~~ 12 further comprises a plurality of ridges 26 disposed radially on the platform 12 from a center 28 to a platform perimeter 30. The ridges 26 assist a user in rinsing water from a washing cloth.

The skirt 14 supports the platform 12 above a skirt distal end 34 adapted to rest on the bucket bottom 101. The skirt 14 is sized to extend to the bucket wall or walls 102 and flexes resiliently to adapt to the bucket wall or walls as the skirt extends to the wall or walls thus providing an effective splash shield between the screen and the bucket wall. A flange 32 on the skirt distal end 34 extends horizontally from the skirt 14 to engage the bucket wall 102. To allow the skirt 14 to flex and adapt to a changing-narrowing bucket wall diameter, the skirt has vertical slits 36 opening to the skirt distal end 34 allowing the skirt 14 to bend resiliently as the flange 32 rides on the bucket wall 102.

The platform 12 and skirt 14 also include channels 38 on the platform perimeter 30 at lower perimeter portions 22 that extend along the skirt 14 to the skirt distal end 34. Run-off and debris from the platform is thus received in the channels and ~~routed to~~ channeled to the bucket bottom outside of the skirt.

In the claims:

In the claims, kindly amend as indicated following:

1. (Amended) A wash bucket screen for use in a water bucket having a bottom and walls or a single cylindrical or frustum wall, comprising:

a platform with a plurality of holes therethrough arrayed throughout the platform generally, ~~supported on a depending skirt~~ depending vertically from a platform perimeter at a skirt proximal end, ~~sized to flexibly engage supporting the platform~~ the water bucket wall above a skirt distal end adapted to rest on a bucket bottom, ~~the platform having a plurality of holes therethrough allowing water to pass through to the bucket bottom,~~

2. (Amended) Delete.

3. (Amended) The wash bucket screen of claim 1 wherein the platform ~~sides are skirt~~ is adapted to extend to ~~the~~ a bucket wall ~~or walls~~ providing an effective splash shield between the screen and the bucket wall.
4. (Amended) The wash bucket screen of claim 2 ~~1~~ further comprising a ~~perimeter~~ flange extending horizontally outward from the ~~sides skirt sized to ride on a bucket wall when the screen is urged into the bucket.~~
5. Delete
6. (Amended) The wash bucket screen of claim 2 ~~4~~ wherein the platform ~~sides skirt flex~~ flexes resiliently to accommodate ~~adapt to the~~ a narrowing bucket wall ~~or walls as with the sides flange extend extending to the a bucket wall or walls.~~
7. (Amended) The wash bucket screen of claim 5 ~~6~~ wherein the ~~sides skirt have~~ has vertical slits opening to ~~the side a skirt~~ distal ends allowing ~~the sides skirt portions between slits~~ to bend resiliently as the flange rides on the bucket wall.
8. (Amended) The wash bucket screen of claim 1 wherein the platform is planar and slants from a high perimeter portion to a lower perimeter portion to assist ~~run off of debris to slide off from the platform over the platform perimeter.~~
9. Delete.
10. (Amended) The wash bucket screen of claim 7 ~~8~~ wherein the platform includes channels in the skirt and opening at on the platform perimeter at the lower perimeter portions receiving channeling run off and debris from the platform and routing it to the bucket bottom outside the skirt.
11. Delete .
12. Delete.
13. (Not Amended).
14. The wash bucket screen of claim ~~12~~ 13 wherein the ridges are disposed radially on the platform from a center to a platform perimeter.
15. (Amended) A wash bucket screen for use in a water bucket having a bottom and walls or a single cylindrical or frustum wall, comprising:

a planar platform slanting from a high perimeter portion to a lower perimeter lower portion,

a skirt depending vertically from a the slanting platform perimeter at a skirt proximal end, adapted to fit in said A water bucket on the skirt support the platform above a skirt distal end, the platform having a plurality of holes therethrough arrayed throughout the

platform generally allowing water to pass through to the bucket bottom wherein the skirt is adapted to extend to the bucket wall or walls and flexes resiliently to adapt to the accommodate a narrowing bucket wall or walls as the skirt extends to the wall or walls providing an effective splash shield between the screen and the bucket wall, the skirt having vertical slits opening to the side SKIRT distal ends allowing the sides skirt portions between slits to bend resiliently as the a flange extending horizontally from the skirt rides on the bucket wall, wherein the platform and skirt include channels on the platform perimeter at the lower perimeter portions and extending along the skirt to a skirt distal end therein receiving run-off and channeling debris from the platform and routing it to the bucket bottom outside the skirt.

16. (Not amended).

17. A wash bucket screen for use in a water bucket having a bottom and walls or a single cylindrical or frustum wall, The wash bucket screen of claim 15 19 further comprising

a slanted platform supported on a depending skirt sized to flexibly engage the A water bucket wall above the bucket bottom with channels on the platform skirt opening at the platform perimeter at A lower perimeter portions receiving run-off and channeling debris from the slanted planar platform and routing it to the bucket bottom.

18. Delete.

19. (New Claim) A wash bucket screen for use in a water bucket having a bottom and walls or a single cylindrical or frustum wall, comprising a planar platform slanted from horizontal in a single plane having a plurality of holes therethrough and supported above a bucket bottom on a vertical skirt depending from a platform perimeter and sized to flexibly engage a water bucket wall.